

**Coast Guard, DHS**

**§ 15.810**

**§ 15.805 Master.**

(a) There must be an individual holding an appropriate license as master in command of each of the following vessels:

(1) Every self-propelled, seagoing documented vessel of 200 gross tons and over.

(2) Every self-propelled inspected vessel.

(3) Every inspected passenger vessel.

(4) Every inspected small passenger vessel.

(5) Every towing vessel of at least 8 meters (at least 26 feet) or more in length must be under the command of a master of towing vessels, or a mariner licensed as master of inspected, self-propelled vessels greater than 200 gross register tons (GRT) holding either—

(i) A completed Towing Officer's Assessment Record (TOAR), bearing the signature of a Designated Examiner and stating that the Examiner found the candidate proficient; or

(ii) A license endorsed for towing vessels.

(6) Every uninspected passenger vessel of at least 100 gross tons.

(b) Every vessel documented under the laws of the United States, other than a vessel with only a recreational endorsement, must be under the command of a U.S. citizen.

[CGD 81-059, 52 FR 38623, Oct. 16, 1987, as amended by CGD 81-059, 54 FR 149, Jan. 4, 1989; USCG-1999-6216, 64 FR 53223, Oct. 1, 1999; USCG-1999-6224, 64 FR 63235, Nov. 19, 1999; 66 FR 20944, Apr. 26, 2001; USCG-1999-5040, 67 FR 34767, May 15, 2002]

**§ 15.810 Mates.**

(a) The OCMI determines the minimum number of licensed mates required for the safe operation of inspected vessels.

(b) The minimum number of licensed mates required to be carried on every inspected, self-propelled, seagoing and Great Lakes vessel, and every inspected, seagoing, passenger vessel must not be less than the following, except when reductions are authorized under paragraph (e) of this section:

(1) Vessels of 1000 gross tons or more (except MODUs)—three licensed mates (except when on a voyage of less than 400 miles from port of departure to port

of final destination—two licensed mates).

(2) MODUs of 1000 gross tons or more:

(i) Three licensed mates when on a voyage of more than 72 hours.

(ii) Two licensed mates when on a voyage of more than 16 but not more than 72 hours.

(iii) One licensed mate when on a voyage of not more than 16 hours.

(3) Vessels of 100 or more gross tons but less than 1000 gross tons—two licensed mates (except vessels of at least 100 but less than 200 gross tons on voyages which do not exceed 24 hours in duration—one licensed mate).

(4) All offshore supply vessels of 100 gross tons or more—two licensed mates (except when on a voyage of less than 600 miles—one licensed mate). A voyage includes the accrued distance from port of departure to port of arrival and does not include stops at offshore points.

(5) All vessels of less than 100 gross tons—one licensed mate (except vessels on voyages not exceeding 12 hours in duration may, if the OCMI determines it to be safe, be operated without licensed mates).

(c) An individual in charge of the navigation or maneuvering of a self-propelled, uninspected, documented, seagoing vessel of 200 gross tons or over must hold an appropriate license authorizing service as mate.

(d) Each person in charge of the navigation or maneuvering of a towing vessel of at least 8 meters (at least 26 feet) in length must hold a license authorizing service as either—

(1) Mate (pilot) of towing vessels; or

(2) Mate of inspected self-propelled vessels greater than 200 GRT within any other restrictions on the officer's license, holding either—

(i) A completed Towing Officer's Assessment Record (TOAR) bearing the signature from a Designated Examiner and stating that the Examiner found the candidate proficient; or

(ii) A license endorsed for towing vessels.

(e) The OCMI may increase the minimum number of mates indicated in paragraph (b) of this section where he or she determines that the vessel's

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characteristics, route, or other operating conditions create special circumstances warranting an increase.

(f) The Commandant will consider reductions to the number of mates required by this section when special circumstances allowing a vessel to be safely operated can be demonstrated.

[CGD 81-059, 52 FR 38652, Oct. 16, 1987, as amended by CGD 81-059, 54 FR 149, Jan. 4, 1989; CGD 81-059a, 55 FR 14805, Apr. 18, 1990; USCG-1999-6224, 64 FR 63235, Nov. 19, 1999; 66 FR 20944, Apr. 26, 2001]

### § 15.812 Pilots.

(a) Except as specified in paragraph (f) of this section, the following vessels, not sailing on register, when underway on the navigable waters of the United States, must be under the direction and control of an individual qualified to serve as pilot under paragraph (b) or (c) of this section as appropriate:

(1) Coastwise seagoing vessels propelled by machinery and subject to inspection under 46 U.S.C. Chapter 33, and coastwise seagoing tank barges subject to inspection under 46 U.S.C. Chapter 37;

(2) Vessels that are not authorized by their Certificate of Inspection to proceed beyond the Boundary Line established in part 7 of this Chapter which are in excess of 1,600 gross tons, propelled by machinery, and subject to inspection under 46 U.S.C. chapter 33; and

(3) Vessels operating on the Great Lakes that are propelled by machinery and subject to inspection under 46 U.S.C. chapter 33, or are tank barges subject to inspection under 46 U.S.C. chapter 37.

(b) The following individuals may serve as a pilot for a vessel subject to paragraph (a) of this section, when underway on the navigable waters of the United States that are designated areas.

(1) An individual holding a valid first class pilot's license issued by the Coast Guard, operating within the restrictions of his or her license, may serve as pilot on any vessel to which this section applies.

(2) An individual holding a valid license issued by the Coast Guard as master or mate, employed aboard a vessel within the restrictions of his or her license, may serve as pilot on a ves-

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sel of not more than 1,600 gross tons propelled by machinery, described in paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(3) of this section, provided he or she:

(i) Is at least 21 years old;

(ii) Complies with the currency of knowledge provisions of § 10.713 of this chapter; and

(iii) Has completed a minimum of four round trips over the route to be traversed while in the wheelhouse as watchstander or observer. At least one of the round trips must be made during the hours of darkness if the route is to be traversed during darkness.

(3) An individual holding a valid license issued by the Coast Guard as master, mate, or operator employed aboard a vessel within the restrictions of his or her license, may serve as pilot on a tank barge or tank barges totaling not more than 10,000 gross tons, described in paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(3) of this section, provided he or she:

(i) Is at least 21 years old;

(ii) Complies with the currency of knowledge provisions of § 10.713 of this chapter;

(iii) Has a current physical examination in accordance with the provisions of § 10.709 of this chapter;

(iv) Has at least six months service in the deck department on towing vessels engaged in towing operations; and

(v) Has completed a minimum of twelve round trips over the route to be traversed, as an observer or under instruction in the wheelhouse. At least three of the round trips must be made during the hours of darkness if the route is to be traversed during darkness.

(c) An individual holding a valid license issued by the Coast Guard as master, mate, or operator, employed aboard a vessel within the restrictions of his or her license, may serve as a pilot for a vessel subject to paragraph (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section, when underway on the navigable waters of the United States that are not designated areas of pilotage waters, provided he or she:

(1) Is at least 21 years old;

(2) Complies with the currency of knowledge provisions of § 10.713 of this chapter; and